

# Seat Pleasant News

November 2013

Volume 1, Issue 39

## Inside this issue:

Child Safety & Security	3
211 System	4
Maryland Health Connection	5
Seat Pleasant Activity Center Schedule	6
Veterans Day Ceremony	8

### CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT

#### MAYOR

Eugene W. Grant

#### COUNCIL PRESIDENT & WARD III COUNCILMEMBER

Reveral L. Yeargin

#### WARD I COUNCILMEMBER

Elenora Simms

#### WARD II COUNCILMEMBER

Aretha A. Stephenson

#### WARD IV COUNCILMEMBER

Gerald R. Raynor

#### WARD V COUNCILMEMBER

Eugene F. Kennedy

#### AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBER

Johnie L. Higgs, Sr.

#### AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBER

Kelly Porter

#### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

LaTasha C. Gatling

#### TREASURER

Robert L. Ashton

#### CHIEF OF POLICE

Christopher Cotillo

#### DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Johnny Thompson

#### CITY CLERK

Dashaun N. Lanham

## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ENERGY SALE SCAMS

Energy deregulation has provided customers with the option to choose their own energy providers. Unfortunately, whenever something good like this happens there are always bad people who come along and ruin it. There have been a number of reports recently about unscrupulous companies that are taking advantage of the fact that folks don't fully understand how to benefit from energy deregulation. It is important to avoid these scams and use only legitimate sites to switch your energy supplier!

### Energy Seller Scams

There are several variations on energy sales scams but they all start with someone cold calling an individual to try to get them to switch energy providers. This may be done on the phone or through door-to-door sales. These sellers typically misrepresent themselves. For example, they may say that they are with the local large utility provider and that they are offering discounts on energy. That was the case recently with a group of people who went door-to-door saying that they were from Baltimore Gas and Electric and were authorized to offer discounts to certain customers (when in fact they were from another energy company that may or may not offer a lower rate).

These people are taking advantage of the fact that customers don't really know a lot about energy deregulation, yet. The horrible thing is that energy deregulation is designed specifically to give you a choice in who you get your energy from and if you fall victim to one of these scams then you actually are not exploring all of your choices. It defeats the entire purpose of having alternative energy suppliers.

### How to Protect Yourself

So how do you take advantage of energy

deregulation without falling prey to one of these scams? Here are some important tips:

- o Don't sign up for anything that a seller approaches you about. Whether they call you, email you or come to your door, you should always say that you want to think about it. This gives you time to research who they are and how legitimate the deal is.
- o Do your own research into energy deregulation. If you understand what it's all about then you'll be empowered to take advantage of it in the right way!
- o Look for lower cost energy suppliers on sites that direct you to multiple options. There isn't just one single company in your area offering a better rate on energy; there are several. Make sure you get the opportunity to weigh the costs of each of them to choose the one that is best for you! Comparison energy shopping is important when it comes to choosing an energy supplier.

by Christina Cleri  
Shop for Energy.Org



## FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY CLERK



**The City Council has introduced the following legislations in the month of September:**

**Resolution R-14-08** FOR the purpose of outlining the organizational structure and chain of command for employees of the City of Seat Pleasant as set forth in the Charter for Seat Pleasant, the Code of the City of Seat Pleasant, and the Personnel Rules and Regulations Manual; and generally relating to the organizational structure and chain of command for employees of the City of Seat Pleasant.

**Ordinance O-14-01 An Ordinance** concerning Amendment of the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget for the City of Seat Pleasant, Maryland for the purchase of Security Camera's for the Public Works and Vest for the Police Department.

**Ordinance O-14-02 An Ordinance** concerning Amendment of the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget for the City of Seat Pleasant, Maryland for the purpose of Legal Service fees and a Port-A-Potty for Goodwin Park.

**Ordinance O-14-03 An Ordinance** for the purpose of repealing in its entirety Chapter 59 – Brush, Grass and Weeds of the Code of the City of Seat Pleasant (the

“Code”) and enacting a new Chapter 59 of the Code entitled “Brush, Grass and Trees” for the purposes of clarifying certain provisions to better reflect practices of the City of Seat Pleasant (the “City”) and adopting provisions regarding trees on real property located within the corporate limits of the City; providing for the severability of the provisions of this Ordinance; and generally relating to brush, grass and trees in the City.

**Ordinance O-14-04 An Ordinance** for the purpose of adopting the Minimum Livability Code adopted by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code published by the International Code Council as the property maintenance code for the City of Seat Pleasant, subject to certain modifications to address conditions peculiar to the City of Seat Pleasant; establishing the minimum regulations governing the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings and structures within the municipal boundaries of the City of Seat Pleasant; providing standards for supplied utili-

ties and facilities and other physical things and conditions essential to ensure that structures are safe, sanitary and fit for occupation and use; providing for the condemnation of buildings and structures unfit for human occupancy and use and the demolition of such structures; providing penalties for violations and for enforcement of the property maintenance code; providing for appeals and judicial review of certain orders or decisions relating to the property maintenance code; providing for the application of such regulations, standards and penalties; providing that the title of this Ordinance shall be deemed a fair summary; and generally relating to the adoption of a property maintenance code for the City of Seat Pleasant.

**Ordinance O-14-05 An Ordinance** to Amend the FY2013-2014 Budget for demolition of properties in the City of Seat Pleasant.

**Ordinance O-14-06 An Ordinance** Amend the FY2013-2014 Budget for the purpose of the FY2012 and FY2013 Traffic Studies.

Copies of legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk at:

Seat Pleasant City Hall  
6301 Addison Road  
Seat Pleasant, Maryland  
20743-2125

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Mayor and City Council will meet on the following days in the month of **November**:

**Monday,  
November 4, 2013**  
Regular Work Session  
Time: 6:00p.m.

**Wednesday,  
November 13, 2013**  
Public Session  
Time: 7:00p.m.

The meetings will be held at:

Seat Pleasant City Hall  
Council Chambers  
6301 Addison Road  
Seat Pleasant, MD  
20743-2125

If you desire to speak before the Council at the Public Session, please contact the City Clerk to register your concerns before the meeting.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? - A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER SIMMS



Councilwoman Elenora Simms

If you or someone you know was a participant in the Seat Pleasant After-School program at Feggans Center, we would like to hear from you. We want to share in your success since being a participant in the program. Please feel free to call 301-336-2600 with your information. We would love to hear about your experiences during the program and beyond.

## CHILD SAFETY AND SECURITY - TIPS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Here are some tips to keep your children safe from harm:

- Know where your child or children are at all times and who they are with. If a child needs to be left alone, make sure they are with a trusted adult.
- Never let a child go into a restroom alone in a public place. Always stay with children when in a public area.
- If a child doesn't want to be around a certain adult make sure to find out why. The adult may be acting in inappropriate manner.
- Talk with children when they begin to use a computer on their own or get their own mobile device about Internet safety. Discuss how they should not reveal personal information to anyone on the Internet, and if they ever come across anything that makes them uncomfortable, they should tell an adult immediately.
- When moving to a new neighborhood, show your child which places to go, such as a neighbor's house, if they need help. Show them places you want them to stay away from and others are, like safe walking routes to school, that are acceptable places from them to go.
- Teach children about bullying and cyber bullying. Let them know that this is wrong and how to report it to a parent or a teacher.
- Create a "Special Code Word" that only you, your child and any other designated person, who has the authority (your permission) to pick your child up, in cases of emergency. If the person does not know the code word then the child should be instructed not to go with that person.



## FROM THE OFFICE OF NUISANCE AND ABATEMENT

Well, its fall - the beginning of Oktoberfest and the Holiday seasons. In fall we prepare our homes for winter to include, but not limited to:

- Painting houses, sheds, fencing and other exterior structures
- Installing insulation
- Preparing firewood (should be stored 18" off the ground)
- Cleaning or renewal of filters
- Taking air conditioners out of windows
- Adding blankets to our bedding
- Changing over our summer clothes to winter clothes
- Preparing our vehicles; oil change, change anti-freeze, transmission fluid, brakes rotors and pads, power steering fluid.
- Removing dead trees (wet weather, rain and snow may tend to loosen the roots and fall on you or your neighbor's property)
- Ensuring our roof is in good condition; heavy snow can cause them to collapse.

While the holiday season

is upon us, sadly, but truthfully so is crime. Some crime preventable measures are: trimming the hedges along the walkway to three feet (this would cut down on home invasions or someone walking down the street being robbed). Someone can hide behind high trees, hedges and bushes. Ensure that your windows are closed and locked when

(continued on the next page)





(nuisance abatement continued) you are not home. Install window and door alarms, security video cameras or invest in a security system. Lock vehicles and remember to remove things of value such as removable radios, video games, navigation systems. Keep all valuables out of view and stored in the trunk.

The City is in the process of working to demolish abandoned dilapidated properties and renovate them to attract new residents. If there is a vacant property next to you or near you, report immediately if you

see a squatter or someone vandalizing; taking copper, air conditioner units, or anything of value. Call the non emergency number (301) 352-1200 or 911 immediately, (you can remain anonymous.

Last, but not least, with winter coming upon us, the birds, rodents (squirrels, rats, bats, ground hogs, possums, raccoons etc.) will look for place to hibernate. Ensure that all attics, roofs, window frames, doors, holes, cracks, and crawl spaces are sealed.



Do you believe that knowledge is power? I certainly do. Look at all the things you can do and the help you can find when you have information. I recently heard about the 2-1-1 system and wanted to pass it along to you. It's a resource that provides free and confidential information/referral regarding food pantries, training, help for an aging parent, housing, employment, health care, counseling, addiction programs for teenage children, and so much more. It can help you when you're facing a problem or crisis and they let you know that you are not alone. If you are experiencing thoughts of suicide, are concerned about a loved one, need referrals, or just need someone to listen, 2-1-1 call specialists are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a

year to provide a non-judgmental listening ear and get you the help that you need.

If you have access to a computer, check out <http://www.211md.org/>, a site that gives you plenty of information about the 2-1-1 services. If you don't have a computer at home, remember that you can always go to any of our public libraries and

## 2-1-1 SYSTEM

use their computers for free. If you can't get to a computer, give 2-1-1- a call and they will connect you to the health and human services resources in the Seat Pleasant area.

Next month, I'll tell you about the Teen Court program, a fabulous way that holds youth accountable for their actions.

Tell us at CPAC about the

issues you have in your neighborhood. We will discuss your concerns with the police department and do our best to fix them or make them better. Please feel free to email your ideas, comments, concerns, and suggestions to us at: [cpac.seatpleasant@live.com](mailto:cpac.seatpleasant@live.com). We look forward to hearing from you!





## **ABOUT MARYLAND HEALTH CONNECTION**

Maryland Health Connection is the marketplace for individuals, families and small businesses to compare and enroll in health insurance and determine eligibility for Medicaid and other assistance programs, federal tax credits and cost-sharing reductions. Enrollment through Maryland Health Connection begins in October 2013, with insurance coverage beginning January 1, 2014 for individuals and families. Enrollment for small businesses begins when the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) opens January 1, 2014.

---

## **ABOUT THE MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE**

The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) is a public corporation and independent unit of Maryland state government established in April 2011 in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA). The MHBE has a nine-member Board of Trustees that includes the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland Insurance Commissioner and Executive Director of Maryland Health Care Commission. The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange is responsible for the administration of Maryland Health Connection.

### **Mailing Address**

Maryland Health Connection  
P.O. Box 857, Lanham, MD 20703

For more information go to: <http://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov>

### **Consumer Support Center**

1-855-642-8572

### **Services for the deaf or hard of hearing**

1-855-642-8573

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SEAT PLEASANT ACTIVITY CENTER!



	<p>BASKETBALL, PRE-SCHOOL TUESDAY &amp; THURSDAY 6:25-7:25 P.M. 3 – 5 YEAR OLDS \$40/RESIDENT \$48/NON-RESIDENT NOV. 5TH</p>	<p>BASKETBALL, CHILDREN TUESDAY &amp; THURSDAY 6:25-7:25 P.M. 6 – 12 YEAR OLDS \$40/ RESIDENT \$48/NON-RESIDENT NOV. 5TH</p>
<p>CHEERLEADING, CHILDREN SATURDAY 11:10A.M.-12:40 P.M. 6-12 YEARS OLD \$40/RESIDENT \$48/NON-RESIDENT NOV. 2ND</p>	<p>CPR/FIRST AID ADULTS SATURDAY 10:30A.M.-3:00P.M. 16 &amp; UP \$70/RESIDENT \$84/NON-RESIDENT NOV. 9TH</p>	<p>GUITAR, MIXED AGES THURSDAY 6:30P.M.-7:30P.M. 8 &amp; UP \$40/ RESIDENT \$48/NON-RESIDENT NOV. 7TH</p>
<p>OKINAWAN KARATE, MIXED AGES TUESDAY &amp; THURSDAY 7:00P.M.-8:00P.M. \$115/RESIDENT \$138/NON-RESIDENT NOV. 5TH</p>	<p>PIANO, CHILDREN THURSDAY 6:00P.M.-6:50P.M. 6-12 YEARS OLD \$60/RESIDENT \$72/NON-RESIDENT NOV. 5TH</p>	<p>PIANO/ADULTS THURSDAY 7:00-7:50P.M. 14 &amp; UP \$60/RESIDENT \$72/NON-RESIDENT NOV. 5TH</p>
<p>WOMEN'S WEIGHT TRAINING TUESDAY &amp; THURSDAY 6:30P.M.-7:30P.M. 18 &amp; UP \$40/RESIDENT \$48/NON-RESIDENT NOV. 5TH</p>	<p>ZUMBA, ADULTS MONDAY &amp; WEDNES- DAYS 7:00P.M. -8:00P.M. 18 &amp; UP \$40/RESIDENT \$48/NON-RESIDENT NOV. 4TH</p>	<p>ZUMBA, ADULTS SATURDAY 10:00A.M.-11:00A.M. 17 &amp; UP \$20/RESIDENT \$24/NON-RESIDENT NOV. 2ND</p>
<p>ZUMBA, ADULTS TUESDAY &amp; THURSDAY 7:35P.M.-8:35P.M. 18 &amp; UP \$40/ RESIDENT \$48/NON-RESIDENT NOV. 5TH</p>	<p>LINE DANCE, ADULTS 11:30A.M.-1:00P.M. 18 &amp; UP \$20/RESIDENT \$24/NON-RESIDENT NOV. 2ND</p>	<p><b>FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 301-773-6685</b></p>

**THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
"A City of Excellence"  
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US  
IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
FOR TWO MOVIE NIGHTS**



**42**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2014**

**AND**

**THE GREAT  
DEBATERS**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2014**



**AT**

**THE SEAT PLEASANT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT  
6305 ADDISON ROAD  
SEAT PLEASANT, MARYLAND 20743  
BOTH NIGHTS 7:00 P.M.  
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**CHILDREN UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT  
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP CALL 301-336-2600.**

City of Seat Pleasant

*"A City of Excellence"*

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #235

## **VETERANS DAY CEREMONY**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2013**

**SEAT PLEASANT ACTIVITY CENTER  
5720 ADDISON ROAD  
SEAT PLEASANT, MARYLAND  
10 A.M.\***

**COME AND COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT  
FOR FREEDOMS WE NOW ENJOY.  
TO R.S.V.P. OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 301-336-2600**

**\*PLEASE NOTE: 10 A.M. IS THE CORRECT TIME, THERE WAS AN  
ERROR IN LAST MONTH'S ISSUE.**